



March 11, 2010

Re: The loss of Community Investment Act Funding

Provided by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farmland Trust  
*The Connecticut Farmland Trust is the only statewide land trust dedicated exclusively to protecting Connecticut's working farmland.*

To: Members of the Appropriations Committee;

The Connecticut Farmland Trust strongly urges you to maintain funding for the Community Investment Act (CIA).

The Community Investment Act provides an efficient and equitable source of dedicated funds for affordable housing, open space, historic preservation and agriculture. By design, the funds come from a deed fee tied directly to real estate activity and are NOT part of the General Fund.

Community Investment Act funds have been used to pay for 3 of the 5 staff positions in the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program. Interest in the program by farmers has never been higher and the Department has been receiving applications at record levels. The reduction of CIA funds and loss of staff would mean longer processing times and delays which many interested farmers cannot accommodate. The result will be less farmland preserved.

CIA funds have also been successfully used to leverage conservation funds from federal and private sources. In fact, for every CIA dollar raised for conservation, over 2 dollars of matching or in-kind funds have been secured by these sources.

The Community Investment Act also provides \$1 million for the very successful Ag Viability Grant Program as well as vital funding for the CT Grown marketing program and Farm-Link program. CIA funds are also vitally important to providing dairy support funding that allows CT's dairy farmers to survive during volatile market swings.

The Community Investment Act is working well and as intended. The Connecticut Farmland Trust urges you to maintain the program as it is and allow all Connecticut residents to continue to benefit from its programs.

Henry Talmage  
Executive Director

77 Buckingham Street · Hartford, CT 06106  
phone: 860.247-0202 · fax: 860.247-0236 · email: [info@ctfarmland.org](mailto:info@ctfarmland.org)